

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-07 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07
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R 051829Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7110
INFO :AMEMBASSY CAIRO 610
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK 4753

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO WHO MEA
SUBJECT: 30TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY - ARAB/ISRAELI ISSUE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WE SEE NO SIGN SO FAR THAT THIS ISSUE
IS HEATING TO POINT OF INVOKING ARTICLE VII THIS SESSION
BUT ARABS WILL CERTAINLY PRESS FOR
CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL. ISRAELIS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME
CONCERN, BUT HAVE NOTHING NEW TO REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI MISSION PHONED US MAY 2 TO EXPRESS MISGIVINGS
ONLEARNING THAT ASSEMBLY HAD ELECTED AN EGYPTIAN, DR.
M.L. IBRAHIM, AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE "B", WHERE AGENDA
ITEM ON HEALTH CONDITIONS OF REFUGEES IN OCCUPIED TERRI-
TORIES IS TRADITIONALLY DEBATED. ("ELECTION" INVOLVED
ROUTINE APPROVAL OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE. US DEL
WAS ON NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN GOT
NOMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL ROTATION SYSTEM.)

3. MISSION FOLLOWED UP WITH APPROACHES TO ARAB
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MISSIONS IN GENEVA. PLO PROVED REASONABLY INFORMATIVE.
MISSION OFFICER SPOKE WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVE BARAKAT
MORNING OF MAY 4 REGARDING POLITICAL MOVES AGAINST
ISRAEL ARABS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING AT WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY. BARAKAT INICATED NEITHER ISRAELI EXPULSION
NOR SUSPENSION OF VOTING RIGHTS UNDER ARTICLE VII NOW
BEING CONSIDDERED BY ANY OF THE ARABS. BARAKAT SAID

THAT ARABS NOW PREFER THAT EXPECTED ARAB RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI MEDICAL PRACTICES AND REFUSAL TO ADMIT SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT UNLESS ISRAEL BOTH ADMITS THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND IMPROVES MEDICAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE PALESTINIANS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, ARTICLE VII WOULD BE INVOKED.

4. ISRAELI DELEGATION WAS FIRST ON LIST F SPEAKERS AT ASSEMBLY MAY 3 TO RESPOND TO DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER'S ANNUAL REPORT. ISRAELI STATEMENT WAS HEAVY-HANDED IN ONE OR TWO PLACES, REFERRING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO MEDICAL CARE FREELY GIVEN BY ISRAELI MEDICAL AUTHORITIES TO YEMENI AND IRAQI CITIZENS, AMONG OTHERS. THIS SPARKED SHARP DENIALS BY DELEGATIONS FROM COUNTRIES NAMED WHEN THEIR TURN CAME.

5. DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED BY WHO SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARAB/ISRAELI ITEM (FOR WHICH NO TIME YET SCHEDULED) DO NOT EASILY LEND THEMSELVES TO POLEMICS, FOR WHAT THEY MAY BE WORTH. THEY INCLUDE COPY OF THE ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DIRECTOR OF UNRWA FOR 1976, SHOWING VERY CONSIDERABLE EXTENT OF UNRWA MEDICAL ACTIVITIES IN AFFECTED AREA AND SURROUNDING STATES. THERE IS REPORT BY DG MAHLER COINED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO HELP PALESTINIAN POPULATION THROUGH PROVIDING HELP TO HOSPITALS SERVING THAT POPULATION. IT CONTAINS A SINGLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENCE TO HIS HAVING HAD "A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CONTACTS" WITH PLO IN THIS CONNECTION.

6. FINALLY, WHO SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED A "PROGRESS REPORT" ON EFFORTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO CARRY OUT MANDATE OF LAST YEAR'S ASSEMBLY. EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE INCLUDED. GIST OF LAST ISRAELI LETTER (OF APRIL 20) TO SENEGALESE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE IS THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DEFER DECISION ON MATTER OF VISIT OF COMMITTEE UNTIL SUMMER OF THIS YEAR. COMMITTEE COMMENTS THAT IT NOTES WITH REGRET THAT IT HAS NOT YET CARRIED OUT ITS ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE ISRAEL DID NOT ACCORD IT FACILITIES IT ASKED FOR. COMMITTEE CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING WISH THAT ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IN THAT REGARD.

7. COMMENT: IT HAS BEEN UNDERSTANDING OF USDEL THAT NO ASSEMBLY CAN MAKE DECISION BINDING ON FOLLOWING

YEAR'S ASSEMBLY, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY RESOLUTION OF
KIND MENTIONED BY BARAKAT WOULD BE OF NO EFFECT.
HOWEVER, ON CHECKING THIS POINT WITH WHO LEGAL COUNSEL,
WE LEARN THAT THERE HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS.
COUNSEL ASKED FOR TIME TO CHECK THIS POINT, BUT
SAID HE RECALLED THAT ASSEMBLY IN PAST HAD PASSED RE-
SOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH WERE
TO BE MET BY A MEMBER STATE BEFORE IT COULD EXERCISE
CERTAIN FUNCTIONS. HE HAD IN MIND CASE OF PORTUGAL
WHICH FOR SOME YEARS, APPARENTLY, COULD NOT PARTICIPATE
IN EUROPEAN REGION MEETINGS OF WHO BUT WAS STILL
ALLOWED TO VOTE IN ASSEMBLY. LEGAL COUNSEL ADDED THAT
EACH ASSEMBLY HAS RIGHT TO IGNORE OR OVERTURN WHAT
PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY HAS DONE. BUT HE WAS INCLINED TO
CONCEDE THAT SOME HIGH GROUND MIGHT BE LOST FOR NEXT
YEAR IF PRESENT ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION OF KIND
MENTIONED BY BARAKAT.SORENSEN
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